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REMARKS

Claims 1-25 were pending and rejected. Applicants have amended claim 8 to remove an inadvertently placed punctuation mark. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-25 are allowable.

Examiner Interview

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the interview that Examiner had with the undersigned representative on July 1, 2005. The rejected claims and the cited references were discussed.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

1. Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Garman* (U.S. 5,110,244) in view of *Cabahug* (U.S. 5,613,816). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Independent claim 1 includes, among others, a feature that “said compression ring member [is] linearly traversable with respect to said outer ribbed surface of said collet member between a first release position and a second engaged position, wherein said engaged position results in said ribbed surfaces compressing said collet member and tensilely loading said compression ring member...” The *Garman* and *Cabahug* references, either individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest this feature. Even assuming arguendo that the cited references disclose and/or suggest ribbed surfaces as an outer surface of the collet member and an inner surface of the compression ring member, respectively, the ribbed surfaces are not configured to interact with each other as recited in Claim 1.

Garman does not disclose a combination of ribbed outer surface of the collet and ribbed inner surface of the compression ring. The Examiner identified item 87 in Fig. 3 of *Cabahug* as the inner ribbed surface and items 84 and 90 in Figure 3 of *Cabahug* as the outer ribbed surface. See, page 2, last paragraph in the Office Action. A careful review of *Cabahug* reveals, however, that those surfaces are not configured to interact with each other in the same way as recited in claim 1. Item 87 in *Cabahug*, is an insert, which has an internal thread 88 that can be screwed onto the cylinder 70, thereby securing the handle 86 on the cap 84. See, e.g., Figs. 2-4 and column 3, lines 56-59 of *Cabahug*. Because neither the cylinder

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70 nor the insert 87 is configured to change its size, the insert 87 is not "linearly transversable" with respect to the cylinder 70 to an "engaged position" that results in the ribbed surfaces compressing the cylinder 70 and tensilely loading the insert 87.

The office action further references item 82 in Fig. 3 of *Cabahug* as another ribbed outer surface of the collet. *See*, page 3, second paragraph. This reliance is misplaced. As disclosed in *Cabahug*, the garter spring 85 compresses the externally threaded elements 82 inwardly. *See*, Figs. 2-4 and column 3, lines 45-53 of *Cabahug*. The various surfaces of the components referenced in the rejection serve to keep the externally threaded elements 82 in proper alignment, and not to compress or expand it. *See*, column 4, lines 28-33 of *Cabahug*.

Therefore, even assuming motivation to combine *Garman* and *Cabahug*, the combination fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 1. *See*, MPEP 2143.03. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 and dependent claims 2-25 be reconsidered and withdrawn. Claims 2-25 are therefore also not obvious over *Garman* and *Cabahug*.

2. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Garman* (U.S. 5,110,244) in view of *Cabahug* (U.S. 5,613,816) and further in view of *Stoewer* (U.S. 2002/0114680). Applicants respectfully disagree with Examiner.

As discussed above, claim 6 is not obvious over *Garman* and *Cabahug* because of the missing limitation quoted above. Similarly, *Stoewer* fails to disclose or suggest this feature. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 6 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

3. Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Garman* (U.S. 5,110,244) in view of *Cabahug* (U.S. 5,613,816) and further in view of *Kutz* (U.S. 5,749,690). Applicants respectfully traverse.

As discussed above, claim 9 is not obvious over *Garman* and *Cabahug* because of the missing limitation quoted above. Similarly, *Kutz* fails to disclose or suggest this feature. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 9 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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4. Examiner rejected claims 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Garman* (U.S. 5,110,244) in view of *Cabahug* (U.S. 5,613,816), further in view of *Summerlin* (U.S. 4,653,969), and even further in view of *Williams* (U.S. 4,822,223) and *Cassatt* (U.S. 5,816,761). Applicants respectfully disagrees with Examiner.

As discussed above, claims 10-16 are not obvious over *Garman* and *Cabahug* because of the missing limitation quoted above. Similarly, *Summerlin*, *Willaims* and *Cassatt*, either individually or in any combination, fail to disclose or suggest this feature. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 10-16 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

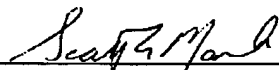
Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 1-25 are allowable and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should any questions arise regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,

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